

THE

GREAT

CLAY  
BELT

OF

NORTHERN ONTARIO

PUBLISHED BY

Temiskaming and Northern Ontario  
Railway Commission

OPERATING

Ontario Government Railways

Sir James P. Whitney, Premier

T. & N. O. R. COMMISSIONERS

J. L. Englehart, Chairman

D. Murphy

Frederick Dane

A. J. McGee, Sec.-Treas., Toronto

F5012 [913] - T281

*The* EDITH *and* LORNE PIERCE  
COLLECTION *of* CANADIANA



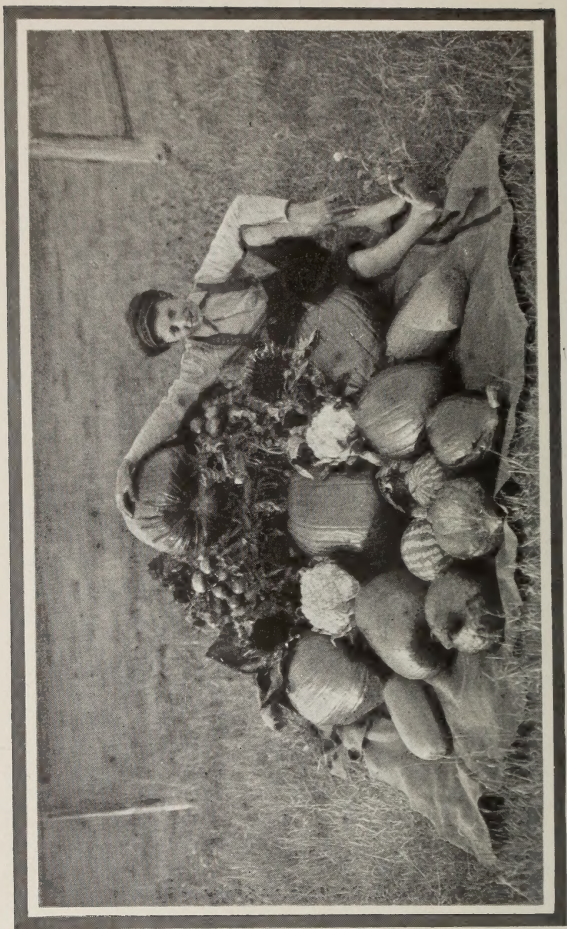
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A Good Display of Vegetables

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[1915]  
T 281



# The Great Clay Belt of Northern Ontario

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Twenty Million Acres of Virgin Soil Await the Farmer's Plow and Reaper.

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In New Ontario's Great Clay Belt All Can Strike it Rich.  
Available Farming Lands are Being Rapidly Settled.

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Where men with Determination, Good Health and Strength need have No Fear of Failure. Forest Line Rapidly Receding from Onslaught of Settler's Axe. Experiences of Settlers Who Have Made Good, as Related, by Themselves. Some of Their Hardships in Days of the First Settlement Before Building of Government Railways and Construction of Colonization Roads. The Life of the Average Settler and the Many Advantages the Natural Conditions of the District Afford as Compared With the West. Timber for Building and Nearness to Market Are Big Advantages.

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New Ontario—the name sounds familiar, quite familiar indeed, for one can scarcely pick up a newspaper that does not contain news of some kind or another from that district. Yet, well known as is New Ontario, how many have any idea of the vastness of this new territory, with its wealth of timber, its healthful climate, and a soil capable of producing grain and vegetable crops surpassed nowhere in agricultural Canada? It is the heritage for the man with ambition and courage who wants to shuffle off the yoke of the wage-earner, the under man, and gain a living of independence. One must actually visit New Ontario before he can form any idea of its possibilities. He must go there to see for himself the great opportunities that exist.

## Desirable Settlers.

In all of the more recently settled districts of all Canada it is doubtful if in any one section of this country can a more desirable class of settlers be found. About ninety per cent. of

them are English speaking. The greater part of them are from Old Ontario, but there are a great many from the United States as well, and the greatest part of the remainder the pick of the immigrants from England, Scotland and Germany. It must not be inferred that all have come to New Ontario penniless. Hundreds of cases could be cited where well-to-do farmers, owning large tracts of land in the older settled parts, have disposed of their holdings and moved to New Ontario. In most of these cases the resolve was made during or after a visit to the new district, showing that rich and poor alike have seen where they could better their conditions. The rural population of New Ontario also represents people of many callings. The draft is made from field, office, factory, and even from the ranks of the seamen. The North has a fascination that attracts alike the peaceful homeseeker and the adventurer. One has really to visit New Ontario to experience this feeling. It grips like a vice. It is a feeling that gets into one's veins and cannot be shaken. The enchantment of silent forest and broad expanse brings to life the spirit of remote forefathers. But it is the business side that compels action. It is the business side that the visitor and prospective settler places before all else. Records of 105 bushels of oats per acre; hay at 3 tons per acre, the latter this year selling as high as \$18 per ton; milk at 14 cents a quart, and an adequate supply unavailable even at that price; eggs selling as high as 75 cents a dozen in winter and a market that is never satisfied—all this does not fail to awaken the business instincts of the visitor and illustrate what the possibilities really are. It is common to see truck loads of cans of milk at the stations of Latchford, Cobalt, Haileybury and even New Liskeard and Porcupine that had been shipped all the way from Toronto to supplement the local supply. Think for a minute what would be the possibilities of a farmer with a herd of high producing cows.

### **New Ontario's Future.**

It is interesting to think what the future of New Ontario will be when these twenty million acres have been put under cultivation. There is no place in Ontario where bigger crops of hay, roots, barley, peas, oats and wheat can be grown. Alfalfa, too, is quite at home on New Ontario soil and record crops are being grown. Corn, too, can be grown, although it has been tried by only a few as yet. One farmer near New Liskeard this year had as fine a field as one would see anywhere. It matured well and grew to a height of 8 feet, despite the decidedly unfavorable weather conditions that prevailed all over Eastern Canada, destroying the corn crop in many outside sections. The cutting of three crops of alfalfa is regarded as a matter of course in New Ontario. The writer a couple of weeks or more ago had the pleasure of helping Mr. E. F.



Stephenson, one of the oldest settlers of the New Liskeard district, to tie up a sheaf of the third cut of alfalfa to send as part of an exhibit in a section of the New Ontario exhibition car now touring Ontario in charge of Mr. George Palmer, of Englehart.

### **A Dairy Country.**

Where clover, alfalfa, field roots, barley and other grains can be grown with such phenomenal success, it at once suggests to the farmer who knows the practical and business side of farming that truly ideal conditions exist for dairying and beef cattle raising. It is almost a safe prophecy that there will come a day in the not distant future when New Ontario will be as a prairie dotted over with cheese factories and creameries, and be known as one of the foremost dairy districts in the world.

### **No Stones.**

One of the first things that impresses the visitor to New Ontario is that there are no stones. In a clay belt it is difficult to find a farmer who will not make a bet, on a hundred-to-one chance, that one stone, no matter how small, cannot be found on his farm. The land is, as a rule, perfectly level, with just enough of the gradual slope to allow for good drainage.

### **The Climate.**

Owing to the long days and greater number of hours of sunshine, crops mature very quickly in New Ontario. The air is dry and healthful all the year. To spend a September in the North is a delightful experience. The air is usually warm, hazy and invigorating. In winter, while the mercury sometimes touches a lower notch than at Ottawa or Montreal, the cold is not felt nearly so much as at either place, owing to the dryness of the air.

### **The Second Year.**

Picture in your mind the average settler who has had a start of two years and has become fairly well established in his new home and new surroundings—a man of ordinary judgment. He has no worry. Should his crop fail he has another big account to draw from—the timber and pulp wood; or should he choose to work out he may do so and receive the best of wages. Contractors and lumbermen are always bidding for his time and that of his team. Fear of the landlord putting him and his family out of their abode for non-payment of rent does not concern him; he is his own landlord. His features are not marred by “worry lines” from fear that the interest will not be met and the mortgage foreclosed. The

Ontario Government has guaranteed him a title to his farm, free, to be delivered to him as soon as he has done enough work, for himself, to entitle him to receive it. His family need not suffer with the cold in winter because of a coal famine or of lack of funds to purchase it; thousands of cords of the best of firewood are near at hand, free for the cutting. He is independent of the ice man in summer. The network of rivers and lakes of the purest of waters, which cover the country, provide ice of the finest quality in winter and no matter how busy the settler may be he can spare a couple of days to harvest and store enough of this necessity to last through the following summer. For buildings he need not pay high prices for lumber or frame timber. There is plenty of it near by; the only cost is the labor in felling the trees and hewing the timbers. Then for the lumber there are numerous sawmills throughout the district where custom sawing is done where the farmer may haul his logs. If the settler does not desire to do so he need pay no cash as the owner of the mill will accept a small percentage of the lumber so cut in payment of his sawing account.

Then as to providing for the table. Invariably every settler has his little flock of poultry and a number of hogs, and at least one cow; thus, with this stock, milk and butter, pork, eggs and fowl are furnished. A half-acre patch of garden will provide a sufficient quantity of potatoes, cabbage, beets and other table vegetables for the average family for a year. Plums, raspberries, strawberries and blueberries grow almost everywhere. The quality is of the best and the yields immense. The writer picked several cupfuls of red raspberries near New Liskeard on September 15. In size the berries were equal to the improved varieties in cultivation and the flavor the finest. Wild strawberries, too, grow of great size in New Ontario. The wild black and red currants and the high bush cranberries are found in great quantities every season also. The same can also be said of gooseberries. All these are to be had for the picking and it is therefore not surprising that every thrifty New Ontario farm housewife has each year such a variegated stock of preserved fruits. In some of the homes the pantry shelves contain displays of fruit that would prove a big feature at an exhibition. So much for the natural resources of the great clay belt of Ontario, and after reading the above the reader's first thought will no doubt be that money is not required in order to live comfortably there. Such is the case, nevertheless, for very little money is required. Truly, a country must be almost perfect when conditions are such. It is one of the reasons why it is easy for the settler to save money. His bank account swells quickly because he has so little expense, and the returns from his crops, aside from what is wanted for clothing and other incidentals, is added to it. For the wage-earner in the cities who has ambition enough to create in him

a desire to better his condition there is food for thought in the above. Take the average wage-earner in the city, for instance. Suppose his earnings amount to \$500 a year. His house rent will amount to \$16 per month, and no decent house can be rented for much less, \$184 a year; electric lighting at \$2 a month, \$24 for one year; coal, 5 tons at \$8, \$40; provisions for an average family \$20 per month, \$240 a year. This makes a total of \$488, leaving the munificent sum of \$12, or \$1 a month, to clothe himself and family, provide for a little recreation, such as theatres and picnics, pay insurance, street car fare, possible doctor's bills, etc. It is not difficult to see why New Ontario appeals to the wage-earner.

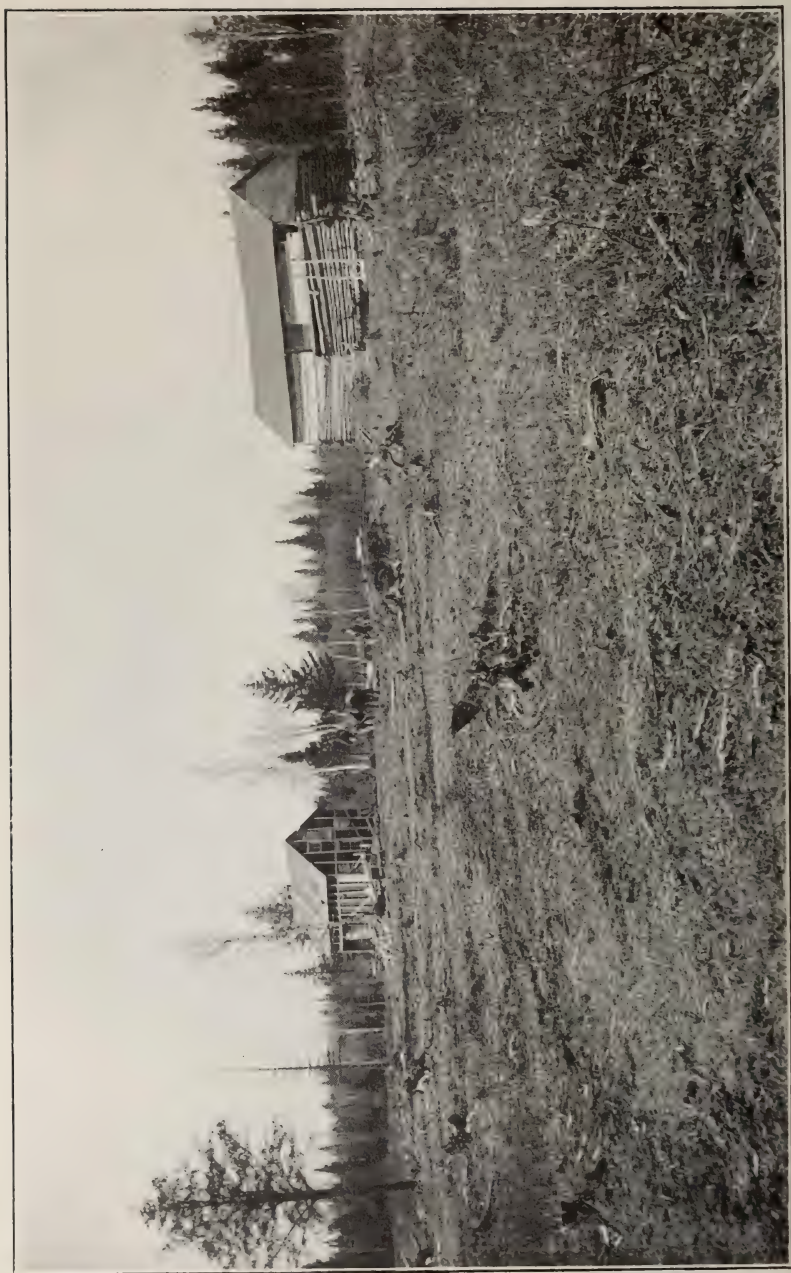
### **Not All Sunshine.**

But if a man be making a comfortable living in other parts, he would, however, be doing himself and those depending upon him an injustice to throw up everything blindly and move to New Ontario without first looking it over and then asking himself if he can make the best of these opportunities. Too much thought cannot be put on this one point. A man may have ability to make good progress in an older settled district, but for him to go where conditions are as different as day and night, he may have disappointments at first. Then, again, for the man who has less at stake, the man who finds he cannot make ends meet, to New Ontario and a homestead farm is the answer. In any event a man with only ordinary business ability, in possession of good health and strength, there need be no fear as to his making progress. Thousands of others are doing it, and in the majority of cases the start was made under the most adverse conditions. No one need starve in New Ontario, and no one needs to be idle if he is able and willing to work.

### **Clearing the Land.**

The soil of New Ontario is for the most part a rich clay loam. It does not bake in summer after heavy rains, but remains in a friable condition all through the year. A deep covering of muck, the fertility of centuries of vegetation, covers all, and when mixed with the clay by cultivation makes an ideal combination for the production of big crops. In some sections the bush is heavier than others. There are large areas where fire at some time in the more recent past burned over it and apparently swept all vegetation before it, for nothing is to be found but second growth small trees which are easily cut. The writer formerly owned a farm in the clay belt, and the cost of the chopping, by contract, was \$15 per acre, and an additional \$10 for burning and logging and \$10 for clearing away the stumps. Where the timber is heavier, however, the money realized from the sale of pulp wood will make up for the extra work in clearing. It is generally reckoned that on pulp lands





Farm of one of First Settlers Near Lake Sosekinika

the return from the sale of pulp wood pays for the total cost of clearing the land ready for the plow and leaves a profit of about \$50 besides. Where the timber is light no attempt is made at saving the wood. The trees are piled in tight windrows and cut in the fall or winter and burned in the early summer. If the weather is dry the settler gets a good burn and the work of logging is then reduced to a minimum, for practically nothing is left. The roots of the stumps do not go deep into the ground in the clay belt, usually not more than six inches, and the year following the chopping the greater part of them can be pulled out by hand or with a single horse.

### **How to Obtain a Free Farm.**

Any person over eighteen years of age is eligible to locate a farm in New Ontario upon payment of the sum of \$10 to the Government, whose agents are located at convenient points throughout the district. The regulations state that the applicant must reside on the lot at least six months in the year or provide a substitute. He must erect a habitable house sixteen feet by twenty-four feet and must clear at least two acres each year for the first two years, and at the end of three years have sixteen acres, one-tenth of the area of his farm, under cultivation. By making a declaration at the end of the three years he is entitled to his title or patent to the lot. In some sections a fee of 50 cents an acre is charged, to be paid in instalments of \$20 down at the time of application and a similar amount each year until the total amount, \$80, has been paid.

### **The Model Farm.**

New Ontario, like other new countries and new districts, has problems of its own and the establishment of a model farm was one of the wise moves of the Ontario Department of Agriculture. The farm, which comprises in all eight hundred acres, is located at Monteith, 218 miles north of North Bay, the southern terminus of the T. and N. O. Railway. Close on one hundred acres has already been cleared and experimental work is being carried on to ascertain what crops are or are not suited to the district. The work is under the direction of Mr. C. A. Galbraith, a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, and a man with the right balance of initiative, energy and good judgment to fit him for the position. A *bona fide* farmer of New Ontario could not spend a more profitable half day than in consulting with Mr. Galbraith concerning farming operations.

### **New Ontario.**

New Ontario proper contains the districts of Nipissing, Sudbury, Algoma, Thunder Bay and Parry Sound, but in this article conditions in the Nipissing district only have been dealt

with. The farming lands, or what is commonly called the clay belt, borders upon the rocky strip of about one hundred miles or more to the north of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's transcontinental line and is reached by the Ontario Government Railway running north from North Bay. The clay is encountered at a point between Cobalt and Haileybury, and extends northward to James Bay.

### **An Incident on the Way.**

While travelling eastward from Cochrane the writer was seated in the smoker and casually made a comment on the great amount of clearing that had been accomplished since the year previous. A man occupying the adjoining seat, who had been saying but little for some time, and was evidently much absorbed in everything he could see from the car windows, joined in the conversation. "This is a man's country," he began. "I have been up here only a month and I can eat pork now." He said later that he was a mechanic and had been engaged for several years with a large Toronto manufacturing firm. He and three of his fellow-workmen became dissatisfied with the progress they were making, and not having the best of health himself, decided to take a trip north to look the country over, all four of them.

"Well, what do you think of it now?" he was asked.

"What do I think of it? All four of us have located farms, and we have given up our jobs in Toronto, so I guess I don't think too badly of it, eh?"

All four of them proposed to spend three months at chopping and clearing their land this fall and to secure work at the mines in Cobalt during the winter months to apply to next year's expenses in making improvements.

### **Sir Wilfrid's Impressions.**

During an address before an audience of over two thousand residents of Cochrane and Porcupine, on Saturday night, September 21st, Sir Wilfrid Laurier made reference to the great clay belt in a speech which his hearers knew came from his heart. He said in part: "How proud I am to-day of being here in the town of Cochrane and seeing with my own eyes the excellent clay lands. I know that we have here a section seven hundred miles in length by sixty miles at least in width of clay soil, equal in fertility to the Western provinces or the older sections of Ontario and Quebec. The valley that we have here I have found by my visit to Cochrane and along the Transcontinental Railway to-day is not surpassed in fertility by any in North America. The only difference between the West and here is that in New Ontario the settlers have the benefit of the wooded land, a great asset, while compared with older sections of Ontario and Quebec the



land is much easier cleared than that which our forefathers had to clear. North of the height of land we have a climate and a soil and everything else that a Canadian feels proud of, equal to the best and most fertile land of this great Canada of ours. I'm not a young man as you know, but I hope to come to Cochrane in ten years from to-day in order to see a city which will rival in beauty any city of the St. Lawrence or Great Lakes valleys. The man who comes to this section in a few years will see a continuous Canada from the valley of the St. Lawrence to the Red River valley, when the men in Quebec will join hands with the men in Winnipeg over a chain of settlement through a new Ontario, through a new Quebec. When I go back to the valley of the St. Lawrence I will be proud to say that we have in this great valley of the Hudson Bay the proudest portion of our country."

During a recent trip to New Ontario the writer had the privilege of interviewing a large number of the farmers at different places along the line of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway, which runs from North Bay to Cochrane and opens up a strip of about two hundred miles of agricultural lands. From this line colonization roads radiate in all directions for miles. The Ontario Government has within the past few years followed the surveyors by building roads through unsettled country in order that the prospective settler and the actual settler might reach his lot with the least inconvenience possible. When it is possible to ride in a parlor car to any of the many stations along the line, procure a livery outfit and drive to almost any unlocated lot within twenty miles of the railway, it is not without its humorous side to hear some of the more recent arrivals talk of their "pioneering." The early settlement of New Ontario, however, was not without its ups and downs. All was not sunshine, but those who stayed with it were well rewarded. But the building of the railway seven years ago brought about changed conditions.

The writer interviewed a great many of the older settlers and many of the more recent ones as well, and without an exception all were highly pleased with the district and had high hopes for the future. The following are the experiences of a few of them:

### **Mr. Henry Schaffner.**

Mr. Henry Schaffner, of Brentha, is one of the immigrants to Canada of which this country might well be proud. When he landed in Heaslip, New Ontario, nine years ago his inventory of assets consisted of \$3 in Canadian currency, a wife and a family of ten children. He did not have enough capital to pay the freight on his goods from Toronto to New Liskeard, amounting to \$40. This amount was kindly loaned him by Mr. Thos. Armstrong, then Crown Lands Agent at New Liskeard. Mr. Schaffner did have a few hundred dollars when he left Germany. He stayed in New Brunswick for six months and worked out, and at Toronto for a similar period. He found by sad experience that

to keep a family of ten children in a city even at the seemingly high wages paid for laborers in the cities was not by any means a business proposition. Keeping a family in clothes, paying house rent and buying provisions for them, to say nothing of the possibility of sickness, at a cost of \$3 a day and a daily wage of \$2 per day, when work could be had, did not figure out to satisfy Mr. and Mrs. Schaffner, yet this is what the average unfortunate wage-earner in the cities is doing every day. Husband and wife held a consultation one evening concerning the future and the acquisition of a homestead farm in New Ontario seemed to be the only solution of the problem, and they accordingly lost no time in getting there. Time was the essence of the agreement in this case, for as Mr. Schaffner figured it, if he should wait longer until he had earned more of the "big wages" in the city he would not have enough money left to pay the railway fare for the family. After nine years' homesteading in New Ontario, what is the Schaffner family worth to-day? The landed interests consist of 1,120 acres. Mr. Schaffner has in his own name 320 acres, while the five sons have each a lot of 160 acres. Their land holdings, together with improvements, are worth to-day at least \$25 an acre, to say nothing of the value of their stock. Mr. Schaffner has on his own farm over fifty acres cleared, has four horses, besides a herd of cows and a large number of pigs. Then he has first class buildings, machinery of every description, and considerable capital besides. It would indeed be hard to make any comparison whatever between Henry Schaffner, wage-earner, and Henry Schaffner, the progressive and influential farmer of Brentha, member of the Englehart Agricultural Society and a man of standing in his community. Comparisons would have to be left entirely out of the question. The whole thing would resolve itself into a matter of the widest contrasts. The sons have much to thank their parents for. Instead of spending the best days of their youth as conscripts in the German army, to be known only as number so-and-so, of regiment so-and-so, and to be found only through filing indexes, little units on the checker board of the German fatherland, for "der fighting Kaiser," to move at will, they are independent in their young manhood and living under the flag of the freest country in the world.

### **Mr. George Kingston.**

Mr. George Kingston, of Martha, four miles from Englehart, New Ontario, has a field of four acres of potatoes this year that will yield him a profit almost as great as that of the average one hundred and fifty acre farm in old Ontario. A reasonable estimate of his crop will be about 300 bags to the acre, which at \$1.25 a bag, the prevailing price, would net him the handsome sum of \$1,500. Of that sum not more than \$300 should be required for labor, cost of seed and other expenses at the very outset. Then in addition to that Mr. Kingston has a large clearing and grows other big crops which add materially to the revenue from the farm. He has one of the finest farm houses in New Ontario.

He has also good buildings and all the live stock and machinery he requires. Mr. Kingston arrived in Canada five years ago, coming direct from England, where previous to that he had been engaged almost from his boyhood on the estate of the Duke of Portland. He admits frankly that he had never seen a real forest before coming to Canada. Large, well-kept groves were the nearest he had ever seen to one. The farm he chose was a particularly good one. The soil is of a rich sandy loam with a heavy clay subsoil. Mr. Kingston told the writer that he would never consider going back to England to live. He does not mind the cold winters of Canada, and considers the climate healthier than that of England. For agricultural purposes he considers the soil and climate of New Ontario vastly superior to that of England. In justice to many other farmers in that district it should be mentioned, however, that Mr. Kingston came better prepared than the majority of settlers. He had \$2,000 to invest and he began farming earlier than it would have been possible for him to do had he arrived in the country with only a few dollars. The investment was a good one, though, and his annual returns to-day are not far from the amount he possessed at the start. Mr. Kingston estimates the cost of clearing land on his farm, which is heavily wooded, at \$75 per acre. The value of the timber removed in the clearing, however, brings in a much greater amount than this. He estimates that the price which can be secured for the pulp wood and timber will pay the whole cost of clearing the land ready for the plow.

### **Mr. John Prospect.**

Mr. John Prospect of Chamberlain township located his farm when the first surveys were made around Englehart. For five years he could not get his team out to the town for the reason that there was no road, excepting in winter. Like the great majority of the early settlers he has now got a well improved farm, good buildings, farm stock and machinery. Mr. Prospect thinks New Ontario is the best place for the man who wants to homestead and has only a small capital. It is better than the West, as work of some kind can be had any time during the year, while in the West there is practically nothing to do from the finish of the threshing until seeding time in the following spring. In New Ontario the winter is by far the busiest time. The big trouble is to get men enough to work at getting out pulp wood and timber. Mr. Prospect has been in the country only six years, and when he landed on his lot had only three dollars to his name. He tented out while making a clearing upon which to build a small log house. His first crop was of vegetables, mostly potatoes, and was put in among the stumps with a hoe. The crop of the small area cleared, however, was sufficient to keep the family in vegetables throughout the winter. He was obliged to work out a part of the time during the first summer, to earn enough money to keep his family in provisions while the crop was growing, so together with the time spent in building his house and



making it comfortable for the winter, he had little time left for making much of a showing in the way of a clearing. The first year was the hardest with him, but once settled the rest was easy. He is one of the first members of the Englehart Agricultural Society, and the first year took 16 first prizes at the fair. The second year he won 21 prizes, one of them being a plow valued at \$113. Mr. Prospect, while not possessed of a large cash capital at the start, was fortunate in possessing a good team of horses, with which he earned \$700 in cash the first winter in New Ontario. People talk of pioneering in New Ontario. The word is a misnomer. What would be the chances of the real pioneers of old Ontario in the early days making \$700 in cash in a single winter? Only a few of the very lucky ones made that much during their lifetime.

### **Mr. Levi Smith.**

Mr. Levi Smith, of Heaslip, Evanturel township, was one of the first settlers in that township. He located his farm eleven years ago. At that time there were no roads north of New Liskeard. The T. and N. O., all freight and passenger traffic came in by boat up Lake Temiskaming to New Liskeard. Among his early experiences was to carry in his provisions on his back, through the forest from New Liskeard, but later only from Toms-town. Mr. Smith, who formerly hailed from Bracebridge, now owns a well-improved farm, a herd of nine cows, as well as horses and pigs. He had a fine crop this year, and some of his grain brought him prizes at Englehart fair.

### **Mr. Wm. Schell.**

Mr. Wm. Schell, owner of one of the best farms in Oxford county, paid a visit to New Ontario a few years ago, and became so enamored with the charm of the new district and its many possibilities that he was not long in deciding to acquire land holdings. He now owns three farms, four hundred and eighty acres in all, within one mile of Englehart. His buildings can be seen from Englehart station. He has in all sixty acres cleared and under crop. He has this year a field of potatoes which won first prize in the field crop competition. A small patch was dug by the judges in a part of the field that appeared to be a fair average of the crop. The estimate was placed at 500 bushels to the acre, a total yield of 337 bags, which at \$1.25 per bag, the prevailing price, would net him \$421.25 per acre. A ten acre field of potatoes as they grow in New Ontario would thus return at the above rate a yield of \$4,212. With Mr. Schell, however, farming is a science. He had at Englehart fair this year sheaves of oats the straw of which measured six feet two inches in height, and barley five and one-half feet. He had also on exhibition a plant from a single grain of barley with 50 stools or shoots, each well headed and with an average of 10 grains to the head—a return of 500 to 1. The writer saw this for himself, and it is

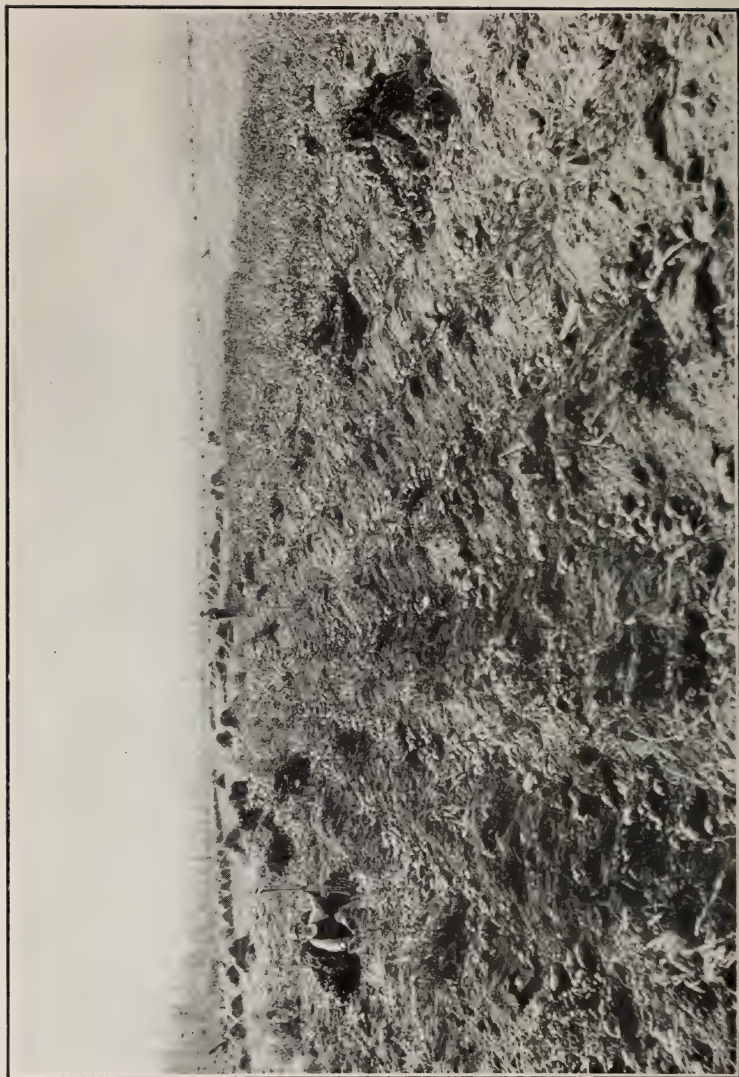
now to be seen on the New Ontario exhibition car. Heads of oats containing as much as 150 grains could be found in the sheaf Mr. Schell had on exhibition. Mr. Schell does not spend all of his time in New Ontario, but has men in charge during his absence at his farm in Oxford county. His settlement in the clay belt dates back only six years.

### **Mr. W. Netherton.**

Successful New Ontario settlers have not all come from farms in the older settled parts, but from office and shop as well. Mr. W. Netherton, of Brentha, between Charlton and Englehart, left the shops of the Massey-Harris Company in Toronto, attracted by New Ontario's charms and bound on making himself independent, rather than to serve under numerous bosses for the rest of his life. He has been in the country about ten years. At the time of his arrival Englehart was not on the map. He cut ten acres of the townsite, and this was about the first work he did in the way of hiring out and earning his first money in the new district. Mr. Netherton is one of the growers of record crops, and specializes in potatoes, barley, oats and clover. He grows a large quantity of turnips each year for feeding his stock, and considers them an economical feed. He admits that the early days, before the railway was built, were not ones of perpetual sunshine. Difficulties and hardships had to be overcome as in any other new district. Means of travel were very inadequate, as the early settlers had to do much of their own road building. To get a roadway into his lot he had to fill one hundred loads of clay into a ravine.

### **Mr. Harry Hackford.**

There are few settlers in New Ontario who have had as varied a life as Mr. Harry Hackford, of Englehart. Mr. Hackford, however, is not a stranger to the profession of farming, having been raised on a four hundred acre farm in Herefordshire, England. He landed in New Ontario seven years ago with a capital of \$50. The old adage that a poor beginning makes a good ending appears to work out according to directions in his case at least. His first lot was located in the winter, and when the snow left in the spring he found that the greater part of his farm was muskeg. He cancelled his right to it and bought another farm, the one he now holds. He was at one time connected with the 41st Regiment of Wales, and served in Egypt and Africa. He has also had some experience in mining. Mr. Hackford's strong speciality is in the growing of vegetables, at which he is an expert, and the vigorous growing season and splendid soil of New Ontario makes conditions the best for his favorite pursuit. He has won many prizes from his various exhibits of vegetables, including the silver cup given by the Union Bank of Canada for the best collection of vegetables grown on a farm. It must not be supposed that he goes exclusively into vegetable growing, however, for he grows excellent hay and grain crops as well. He has



A Fine Potato Patch



a big stock, good buildings and a comfortable home, a well improved farm which would bring a big price if he wished to sell, and a cash surplus to tide over the proverbial rainy day.

### Mr. F. Tellier.

Mr. F. J. Tellier, of Heaslip, Evanturel township, New Ontario, one of the first settlers in that district, is among those who have made good, and when a man can experience the same reverses as Mr. Tellier and then make good it pays a tribute to himself as well as to his district. In 1902 Mr. Tellier left his old home at Strathroy, West Middlesex, and struck out for the great clay belt. He took with him his wife and three children. There was at that time no railway nearer than Mattawa. From the latter place he went to New Liskeard by steamer, leaving his wife and family at the latter place for three weeks while he located his farm. Tomstown, on the White river, was then the nearest point to his farm that could be reached by steamer, a distance of four miles. In July of that year the Government began the construction of a colonization road through Evanturel township, due west from Tomstown for a distance of fifteen miles. This gave him access to his farm, and on September 20 he moved his family and all belongings to his farm into a small log building covered with tar paper. His first misfortune was to take typhoid fever a couple of months after settling in their humble farm home. A short time elapsed until his youngest daughter, then only a child, and later his little son, developed the disease. His wife nursed the three patients with untiring watchfulness until exhausted from the strain, and she too developed the malady and died as a result. Mr. Tellier remained on the farm during the winter, during which time he cleared a few acres of bush. In the spring he waded through the deep flood water which covered the roads and carried the children to the steamer landing at Tomstown, and took them back to relatives in Strathroy. He came back to the farm a couple of weeks after and "batched it" there for two years, made a bigger clearing, and built a bigger and better house. Two years after he brought the children back to the farm and married again the following year. Truly his first years in New Ontario were anything but full of encouragement, and a man with less nerve and determination would have abandoned the country after the first year. In spite of all these reverses he fought it through and is to-day independent. Besides owning a farm that at a sale would bring a price up in the thousands, he has a full supply of farming implements, horses, cattle and pigs, good buildings, a comfortable house, and a bank account for the proverbial rainy day. Mr. Tellier is a believer in mixed farming. Potatoes he figures on as a sure crop and one that pays exceedingly well in New Ontario. Potatoes are a crop well adapted to its soil and climate. Hay and clover too are sure and the prices are invariably high. New Ontario is the place for the young man with a small capital, he says. Mr. Tellier is one of the directors of the Englehart Agricultural Society.

### Mr. Geo. Price.

After a six months' residence in the Northern Ontario Clay Belt, my opinion is that the future prospects of this great region are of the best. The climate is there either summer or winter, the soil is there, and the necessary requirement now needed is the developer, the pioneer, who must be ready to face the battle with nature—who is no mean adversary—in the shape of the bush. Now that the Ontario Government are building roads throughout the new country, the lot of the future settler will be better than his predecessor.

The conditions of the country are such that the intending settler, if he does not already know how to handle the axe, he should be ready and willing to learn how.

The one great drawback, which will in time prove to be a curse if not remedied, are the Veteran Lots scattered throughout the country. The fact that these lots are held by those to whom they were allotted, or sold to speculators for a small cash sum, and which speculators are in turn holding without developing to sell at a profit later, simply off-sets the work the Government is doing to develop and settle the country, and also retards the work being done by the settler on the ground, trying his best to improve his own homestead, and thus prevents him from getting the returns he should receive from his land. For just as long as the country is covered by the bush, just so long will the climatic conditions have some effect upon the successful growing of crops. One such instance I have in mind. A settler who had been four years in this neighborhood (Homer Siding), and had his improvements far enough advanced to enable him to obtain a patent for his homestead, had on each side of him a Veteran Lot. This spring he sold out to go West. He had come to the conclusion there were better prospects out there for a man with a little capital. One of his reasons for going was that it was no use trying to make headway while these Veteran Lots were not being developed. One remedy is that the Government should allow the owners of these Veteran Grants a certain length of time to commence improvements, or forfeit their ownership.

As an inducement to get the proper class of settler into this north country, it would be a safe investment for the Ontario Government to offer a short term loan at a reasonable rate of interest to incoming settlers, to carry them along the first two or three years, stipulations to be made, of course, in regard to this loan. The Australian Government evidently finds it pays them to do so, and the Canadian Pacific Railway are working on the same basis to induce settlers to go West and take up their lands. Both the Australian Government and the Canadian Pacific Railway are making the loans on unusually long terms.

Professor Fernow, in his remarks before the Conservation Commission at Ottawa, on January 22nd last, stated that it costs from \$30.00 to \$50.00, including stumping, and up to \$75.00 per

acre to prepare this land for farming; but the Professor overlooked a very important item, not including over-estimation of figures. On land that would cost, say, from \$20.00 to \$30.00 an acre to clear, the Professor missed the point that this land is pretty well timbered, and on such timbered land the settler makes a neat little profit over the above figures on the timber taken off, be it pulpwood, logs or ties. If the settler cuts his timber into logs, it depends on the party he deals with as to whether he gets returns or not. On land where marketable timber is a little scattering and the bush is more of a second growth or scrubby nature, it does not cost nearly so much to clear.

North of the Height of Land, in the neighborhood of Monteith, there is no doubt but that the quality of the soil will fully come up to expectations. Professor Fernow, in his lecture before the Commission, says that, "Besides root-crops, potatoes, etc., only hay and oats may be expected to yield good returns." This statement of the Professor's is somewhat ambiguous (one of many), for if the land will grow these kind of crops, what will it not grow? for it takes good soil to grow root-crops, that is, of the kind exhibited at the Toronto Exhibition in 1911, which were successfully grown in the Northern Ontario Clay Belt.

I find that the general tendency among the majority of the settlers in this neighborhood (Homer Siding) is to slash, without due regard to thoughts of cultivation, and the result is that within a year or so several of them will not have any timber worth mentioning left on their homesteads and not enough land cleared ready for cultivation to grow food enough to keep a team of horses over winter without buying fodder. Keeping other stock is out of the question.

With regard to the general character of the settlers where I lived last winter, suffice to say that their qualities in regard to hospitality and readiness to help a neighbor entirely shadows any defects that may be noticed by an outsider. Any defect the settler may have unfortunately redounds upon himself and family (if he has one) more than upon anyone else. It is really up to the man himself. With a little thinking he can make use of facilities, sometimes right at his door, and which would during the winter months save hours of time. If he has any tastes at all in the matter of refinement, life, even in the backwoods, can possess comforts worth having, and of all the schools in the world there is no place like the farm, where the saying "Use your head and save your feet" is more applicable.

(Signed) GEO. PRICE.



## Demonstration Car is an Exhibition on Wheels.

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**Products of Fertile New Ontario Districts an Eloquent Testimony  
of the North as a Great Agricultural Area. Government Car  
is Now Touring Ontario. Thousands are Struck by  
Excellence of the Display of Grains and  
Vegetables.**

*The Canadian Citizen, Tuesday, November 12, 1912.*

An "agricultural exhibition on wheels" is the term applied to the Northern Ontario demonstration car now touring Ontario, and which will be in Ottawa November 16 and 18. The car has been out since early in September, starting from Englehart, where it was stocked with the products of the Temiskaming district. Products of the Sault Ste. Marie district, Algoma and Manitoulin were later taken on. The demonstration car was visited by a representative of the *Canadian Citizen*, while the car was on its way eastward from Toronto last week. It was a visit worth while and one that should be taken by any one who feels any way sceptical concerning the possibilities of New Ontario as an agricultural country. The car is in charge of Mr. George Palmer, director of colonization for the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway, which is owned and operated by the Ontario Government. Mr. Palmer is assisted by Mr. G. H. Farmer, of Sault Ste. Marie, a progressive farmer and institute worker of the north shore district. Both men know the country and understand the conditions thoroughly and are therefore in a position to give first hand information. Mr. Palmer lives at Englehart and has spent five years in New Ontario. Mr. Farmer has lived at the Soo for thirty years. Both men are enthusiastic regarding the future and judging by the splendid exhibits in the car they have good reason so to be.

It is interesting to stand aside after the car has been opened for inspection, at points where it is advertised to stop, and listen to the varied expressions of the visitors. One man will come in, eager to see some particular exhibit. His first expression will be "Yes! it's true alright." Then he will go on to relate that his brother, or cousin, or some friend had written to him about the big crops he had this year in New Ontario, and that he wanted to see the quality for himself by visiting the car. Some of the finest

samples of oats and wheat in the sheaf are included in the exhibit that could scarcely be beaten or even rivalled anywhere in Canada this year, excepting British Columbia.

Then there are many incredulous ones among the visitors to the car. At Toronto one individual came in to view the exhibit. He wore a nice black suit and an I'm-from-Missouri-and-you-gotta-show-me expression. In short, he thoroughly understood geography and no one need tell him that New Ontario was an agricultural country. While he knew that the glaciers had long ago departed from around Cobalt, North Bay, he asserted, was "the extreme limit where grains and roots could be grown, north of Toronto." That was his "impression," he said. The men in charge of the car have in a quiet corner of the car a specific for all "impressions" of that nature, and forthwith the visitor was led in that direction. Here he was shown where Cochrane, which is 253 miles north of North Bay, is 50 miles south of Winnipeg, and that Winnipeg is practically south of the greatest wheat belt in the Northwest. The "impression" left quickly. The visitor was then taken to another section where a pumpkin, weighing net 100 pounds, lay in state; then to an exhibit of cabbages, one of them weighing 20 pounds, was displayed. The "impression" was farther away than ever by that time, and only two of the exhibits had been shown. The latter visitor could not be compared to the "fool who came to scoff" because he did not remain to pray, but it was noticed that he became interested and asked many questions about the new district, besides taking with him when he departed a good supply of literature relative to New Ontario.

The big pumpkin mentioned in the foregoing was grown by Mr. R. Slater of Fort Frances, and each of the two twenty-pound cabbages by Mr. J. H. Wigle of Sault Ste. Marie and Mr. E. F. Stevenson of New Liskeard. The grains from Temiskaming were a feature of the exhibit. Oats were shown that run 40 pounds to the measured bushel; wheat that rivalled No. 1 hard, and peas that could not be beaten in Canada. There is no pea weevil or other insects injurious to the pea vines in New Ontario, said Mr. Palmer, nor is there any rust. It was noted that the straw in the sheaves of grain had brightness and quality equalling that grown on the prairies of Western Canada. Then there were apples and plums of the finest quality and of the more tender fruits such as cherries, gooseberries, currants, etc.; these were preserved in their whole state in glass containers.

Mr. Farmer asserted that New Ontario could grow anything that could be grown in Old Ontario, barring the very tender fruits. Alfalfa and barley exhibits were equal in quality to the other grains exhibited. We get from forty to forty-five bushels to the acre of barley, said Mr. Palmer.

The exhibit of vegetables included cauliflowers weighing 10 to 12 pounds. The turnips, mangels, onions and potatoes shown all bore testimony of the immense fertility of New Ontario soil.

The products of the field are not all, for there are included those of the forest, mine and factory. Samples of the famous nickel-

steel from Sudbury, used in the manufacture of high-class automobiles and as armor plate for the world's greatest battleships, steel from the mills at Sault Ste. Marie; blocks of timber, and flour made from New Ontario wheat.

The exhibits were varied and were from Temiskaming, Algoma, Rainy River and Manitoulin Island. All of them were exceptionally good, but those from Temiskaming were the best.

A visit to the demonstration car is a good cure for the western fever. The exhibits point out in an eloquent way that there is a "great west" in New Ontario, where the settler and farmer can always find a diversion which is much more preferable to many than spending a lifetime on a bleak, wind-swept prairie.

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Full information furnished and every assistance rendered prospective settlers on application to

FRED DANE,  
Land Commissioner,  
34 Yonge St., Toronto

GEO. W. LEE,  
General Agent,  
North Bay. Ont





